

SMIT et al
U.S. National Phase of PCT/NL2003/000872

REMARKS

The above amendments are made to insert a cross reference to the PCT application upon which the instant U.S. national phase is based, to add an Abstract of the Disclosure and to eliminate multiple dependencies in the claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The invention relates to a process for making a multi-filament polyethylene yarn via a gel-spinning process, wherein a spin finish is applied at least once in an amount of 0,1-10 mass % based on the filament, to a filament that contains less than 50 mass % of solvent; the spin finish comprising at least 95 mass % of at least one volatile compound having a boiling point at 0,1 MPa pressure of from 30 to 250 °C; and the spin finish is subsequently removed by exposing the filament to a temperature of below the melting temperature of the filament. With this process a yarn is made that has a very low amount of residues on the surface of the fibres, without the need for a washing or extraction step, showing good mechanical properties, and very suited for e.g. biomedical applications. The invention further relates to a process for converting polyolefin fibres into a semi-finished or end-use product. The invention also concerns a polyethylene yarn and a semi-finished or end-use product obtainable by said processes, as well as to the use of thereof in biomedical applications.